

FAMILY30 – PART 3: OWNING IT

Introduction: Every family has conflict. We all address it in different ways, depending on the personalities involved. Yet, when it comes to family, even when you win, it rarely feels that way. An argument that has been won is not an argument that has been resolved. In order to resolve conflict, we need to understand the conflict at its source.

ICE BREAKERS

- What did conflict look like in your family while you were growing up?
- In your family, what are some things that really make you happy?

EXPLORE

James uses just three little verses to dive deeply into the status of our hearts and minds during conflict. He cuts to the source of our conflict, and offers a challenge to our methods and our motives that can dramatically change any conflict in our families. Take your time and read slowly.

- Read James 4:1-3
 - Does James talk about the source of conflict coming from outside or inside of us? What is it?
 - Where does James say our motives should be when it comes to our prayers?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Does an argument always have to be destructive? Have you ever had a constructive argument?
- When approaching an argument, do you tend to *compete* (needing to win), *avoid* (refusing to engage), *compromise* (needing it to be “fair”), *accommodate* (give in to be liked), or *collaborate* (need everyone to win)?
- James uses violent language to talk about quarrels. Have you lost a relationship or something that was important to you because of an argument?
- James says that part of the problem in every conflict is that we are not getting what we want in some way. How have you seen that take place in your own life?
- Do you tend to pray **AT** your family members, or **FOR** your family members? How would you describe the difference?
- Who, in your family, is suffering because you aren’t getting what you want? What is it that you want from them? How could you communicate that in a healthy way?

PRAYER & PRACTICE

The source of external conflict is most often internal conflict that we haven’t noticed, or refuse to note. When this happens, our happiness is now being determined by someone else other than ourselves. In order to stop blaming others for our discontentment, we can bring it to God. Take some time to allow each person to acknowledge an area in their life where they are not getting what they want and that is doing damage to the relationship they have with their family. Then pray for one another and discuss ways that you might support each other.

Family30
Your best family in 30 days